

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Forthcoming Report of the Congressional Committee.

Fort Fisher—Red River Campaign—The Mine at Petersburg.

From Our Special Correspondent.

A matter which is exciting considerable attention and discussion at the capital now is the virtual conclusion of the immense labors of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, and the substance of their forthcoming report.

I have enjoyed the privilege of a glance through the volume just given to the printer, and suppose I may, properly enough, inform the public, through THE TRIBUNE, what the testimony therein taken goes to prove in reference to some campaigns which have been much talked about during the last year.

THE COMMITTEE AND THEIR WORK.

This Committee of seven, it will be remembered, was appointed in January, 1862, and originally consisted of Wade, Chandler and Johnson on the part of the Senate, and Cochrane, Julian, Corvode and Odell of the House. It was reappointed in January, 1863, and since that time Benjamin F. Johnson has been appointed to succeed Johnson, become President, and Ben. Loan of Missouri substituted for John Corvode, not re-elected.

This Committee have presented the work in hand with indestructible industry, following up all the campaigns that seemed at all doubtful in purpose or result, with great diligence and impartiality of inquiry. Already three large volumes have been given to the people of the country to the solution of a number of intricate problems, and three more have just gone to the public printer. A seventh volume is nearly ready, and the eighth and last will be published sometime in the autumn, embracing a resume of the great campaigns of Grant and Sherman during the year, and containing much valuable supplementary matter. These eight volumes, prepared by deliberate and conscientious men, from official statements and records, and at a period of time sufficiently subsequent to the occurrences for passions and prejudices to have subsided and personal hostilities to be somewhat allayed, and accompanied by copious notes and explanatory figures, will be regarded in the future as the most complete and reliable history of the military achievements of this war. It is a gigantic work, and reflects great credit upon the distinguished gentlemen who, amid other exacting labors, have followed up our various armies so assiduously, and taken testimony on every important point of our military operations.

THE RED RIVER DISASTER.

The most ample testimony has been taken bearing on the Red River campaign, and it is of a character most damaging to any military pretensions of Gen. Banks. It demonstrates him to have been guilty of a mercenary motive, either for the benefit of himself or friends, in the purpose of the expedition, and of incompetence in conducting it. It will turn out to be one of the most creditable transactions of the war. It would seem to have had no legitimate object, and to have been conceived and prosecuted merely as a grand cotton-speculating venture to put money in the pockets of private citizens, and to subvert which the army and navy of the South-West were placed under the control of the speculators. It may be added that all officers now in Washington steadfastly refuse to father the Red River Expedition. Secretary Stanton did not order it; Gen. Grant did not direct it; and Halleck swears that he knew not a word about it until after it had failed. Gen. Grant entertains and is not slow to express in these volumes the most contemptible opinion of Gen. Banks; indeed the language of his comments on the affair was so severe that the Committee, in making up their report, preferred not to quote from it.

PORT FISHER.

The Committee examined carefully all the circumstances of the first failure at Port Fisher, and Gen. Butler is substantially vindicated by the report. Butler, Havel, Terry, Porter, have testified, and their testimony all points in the same direction—that he was warranted in declining to make the attack for which he has been so much censured. Terry says it was a fair open military question whether to land and attack or not. Weitzel, the friend of Gen. Grant, says that if he had gone at the head of such an expedition, with entire discretion in the matter, he never would have put a man ashore. Butler's fault seems to have been a technical one—a violation of a preceptory order from Gen. Grant to land and intrench at all hazards. This, as a military matter, it was his duty to do. But he justified himself before the Committee by alleging that, on account of the fierceness of the tempest and the proximity of the Rebel force, such an effort would have been perilous, and in his opinion would have failed with great loss of life. As to the leadership of the expedition, Gen. Grant swears that it was not intended that Butler should go, and that Butler knew he was not to go. On the other hand, Butler swears that it was intended that he should go, and that Grant knew he was going! It seems probable that one or the other of these gentlemen is mistaken. Testimony of other Generals shows that Butler, commanding the Department, had a perfect right to accompany the expedition unless commanded not to do so, and that it was the most natural thing in the world for him to go in command.

MINE AT PETERSBURG.

The public have already received an intimation that the testimony exonerates Gen. Burnside and involves Gen. Meade for the failure in front of Petersburg. Gen. Grant himself admits in his testimony that Burnside would probably have succeeded if he had been left alone with his negro troops. These volumes seem to show that Gen. Meade lacks confidence in himself and takes counsel of his apprehensions rather than his hope.

GETTYSBURG, ETC.

This view is quite confirmed by the further evidence adduced in considering the Gettysburg battle, and the campaigns from the Rappahannock to the James. The investigations of the Committee into the conduct of the Potomac army has been very extensive and thorough, and the whole tendency of the testimony is decidedly detrimental to the generalship of Gen. Meade. It will show that after the battle of Gettysburg, it was perfectly practicable to capture Lee's whole army before recrossing the Potomac. The evidence concerning this point is of great weight. It would seem from the testimony, that Meade never made an advance, his whole policy being defensive. He is sufficiently courageous, personally, but at the head of an army he has all that caution that paralyzed McClellan. It is said, however, in Gen. Meade's favor, that he has never overestimated himself, and has little of that vanity which has possessed some commanders of less caliber than himself and of a similar cautious temperament.

For want of time, testimony has not been taken in full in regard to the investment and occupation of Richmond and the capture of Lee's Army, but very comprehensive questions, covering all of this, have been put to Gen. Grant, and interrogatories of similar tenor covering the march of the great Western Army have been submitted to Gen. Sherman; and the formal replies to these questions will constitute a large part of the 8th volume, the 6th of the present series. It is not quite true that Gen. Sherman has refused to appear before the Committee; he has merely failed to appear in answer to a summons.

Perhaps the most startling development of the forthcoming volumes will be the evidence which they furnish of the Cheyenne massacre of Indians by Col. Chivington in Colorado Territory. It proves to have been a most brutal and unprovoked slaughter of men, women and children, who were living in a quiet manner in a state of entire peace with the whites. The labors of the Committee bearing upon this national disgrace are embraced in a pamphlet of a hundred pages, and exhibits the affair in the most barbarous light as a shame to the civilization of the age.

W. A. C.

THE YELLOW FEVER PLOT.

ITS AUTHOR SECURED.

Dr. Blackburn Arrested in Montreal.

MONTREAL, Thursday, May 18, 1865.

Dr. Blackburn, who shipped infected clothing from Bermuda, was arrested to-day, on a warrant from Toronto, for breach of the neutrality laws. Foote publishes a long letter to Stanton. He says he was ordered to leave the States in 48 hours. He is willing to go back for trial.

SOUTH AMERICA.

NEWS FROM THE RIVER PLATE.

The Rebel Flores Conqueror and Governor of Uruguay—Brazil and Paraguay Vigorously Preparing for War—Railroads—American Enterprise—Cotton Prospects—Wool.

From Our Special Correspondent.

Buenos Ayres, S. A., March 27, 1865.

To-day the English packet sails, and I send to you a fortnightly version of affairs in the River Plate. At length all things are quiet in Uruguay. Gen. Flores, the Rebel, has succeeded, and by concession, surrender, appointment, and proclamation, is the legitimate Chief Magistrate, as if (Ile) Davis should be President at Washington. One after another of the armed bands of patriots have been bought, defeated, or scattered, by Brazilian gold or Brazilian force, until now, for the first time in 24 months, there are no beligerent forces in Uruguay. Thus far President Flores has been a mild judicious and conciliatory. He has chosen a good and able Cabinet, and the country is resting in all respects.

The Brazilians still remain in Uruguay to the number it is said of 16,000 men. They are about to go into winter quarters, and are preparing to proceed to Paraguay in the Spring. They are making vigorous preparations. The fleet is expected to spend the winter a little below the Fortress of Humaita. Meanwhile Paraguay is making stupendous efforts to defend her sacred soil.

The Congress of Paraguay assembled March 10 to extraordinary session, and President Lopez laid before them the recent warlike attitude of Brazil, and annulled the policy of the Argentine Republic, which refused him permission to pass over the territory of Misiones to gain a near route to Brazil, and yet it has opened the Paraná River to Brazilian fleets to attack Paraguay. There was great excitement, and Congress became very patriotic and very liberal.

President Lopez was by law made Marshal or Commander-in-chief of all the armies of Paraguay, with additional pay of 60,000 Spanish dollars a year. He entered the House and accepted the honor, but declined the salary for patriotic reasons in the present emergency of the country. Congress then voted him a five sword. A lion was provided for to carry on the war.

While President Lopez guards so carefully the territory of Misiones and President Lopez desires to march across it, we are met by a claim of a Frenchman, M. Despey, who claims to be the owner of the whole province. It seems from deeds and documents, duly authenticated, that in 1855, when the Confederation was in an exhausting war with Brazil and was greatly in want of money, Mr. Despey stepped in and furnished the needed funds and received a deed and legal concession of 3,500 square miles, or 2,500,000 acres, more than the whole Western Reserve in Ohio. It is a beautiful peninsula between the rivers Aguay and Uruguay. So the matter now stands. It is probable that only the right to the soil will be maintained as a man owns his farm.

We have heard nothing lately concerning the claims of Chili to Patagonia.

Mr. Wheeler, the American railroad engineer is now in this city. He is about to engage in a new railroad project connecting this city with a fine harbor, Encarnacion, some 40 miles southward. The Argentine Central Railroad, connecting Rosario with Cordoba is progressing finely under Mr. W's supervision as contractor, and also chief stockholder. The "Lord of the Manor" has just arrived from the United States, bringing cars and material for this railroad.

The encyclical letter of the Pope has been very roughly handled here by the public papers. But the Bishop has issued a faint echo of the encyclical, in which he discourages ideas of progress as much as the head of the church at Rome does. He quotes passages from the Bible, giving chapter and verse, and writing out the quotations in full. A copy of the letter has been obtained by it to show to the faithful that the Bishop quotes from the book he has for sale as a work of standard authority. The Bishop's letter will probably sell a great many Bibles.

The Pope's letter does not give the authorities here any trouble, because it is a settled policy between this Government and the Papal that any clergyman at home must be approved here before he has authority. The Pope's tirade against civil liberty and national progress is quite harmless in this confederation.

Thus far in the season, and it is nearly over, the cotton plantation of Mr. Forrest at Parana is progressing finely. He is delighted with the prospect of the cotton business. But labor is scarce and dear. The small farmers who have families of children to pick cotton are doing well, raising five to ten acres.

The land formerly owned by the Dictator Rosas, and confiscated, have been ceded to a company for a public park, promenade, tea gardens, &c. It is a drive of twenty minutes outside of the city.

Up to the closing of my letter affairs are quiet at Montevideo, and Provisional President Flores is applying himself to his work of regulating in right good earnest. He has issued decrees defining the charges of hackney-coaches, the number of passengers that may ride in omnibuses, &c. Business in this city is quite brisk. The wool of last clip is just now reaching market, having been kept back by the war.

The inconvenient and dangerous landing at Buenos Ayres has at length found a remedy. It is the making of a port and wharf at the Tigre, about 24 miles out of town, and from the Tigre there is a railroad with five trains a day. Three thousand men make the Tigre the end of the route eastward.

Banking is found very profitable here. The first and only English bank here has its stock at \$3 to \$9 premium. Three new banks are about to be established. The work of exchange alone amounts to about 100,000 Spanish dollars per week. The present rate of loans is 12 per cent per month and upward.

The following are American vessels are now in this port: Littlefield, G. F. Pearson, Sars R. Carlon, Alfred, Atlanta, Charter Oak, J. A. Brett, Lord of the Manor, Damon.

Gen. Sarmiento, a Spanish iron-clad, is now at Montevideo, attracting great attention. She is to go to the Pacific. Hundreds visit her daily.

The New-York Semi-Weekly Tribune.

Ready this morning, contains:

NEWS SUMMARY—Civil Department, Naval, War, Miscellaneous, the Association, News from Washington, New York, Political and Domestic Miscellaneous and Foreign News.

THE TRIAL OF THE ASSASSINS—A Full Abstract of the Proceedings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—The Secret Testimony—Insights of the Trial.

THE REBEL RAN—STONEMAN—Her Arrival at Havana—Official Notice to Ship.

URGENT—On the Rebellion East of the Mississippi—No Quarter to Armed Rebels after June 1—The Grand Review to Come of Next Week.

A MEXICAN DISASTER—A Warning to Emigrants.

OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE—London and Constantinople Letters.

FROM FRANCE—Action of the French Legislature Body on the Assassination of President Lincoln—Thirty Thousand Men Paraded—Full and Correct Returns by Our Special Correspondent—The First Column the First to Sign.

FROM RICHMOND—Special Correspondence.

FROM NEW-YORK—Special Correspondence.

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5 to 7 p. m. every day.

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THIRD SERIES, \$250,000,000.

By authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, the under-

standing, General Subscription Agent for the sale of United

States Securities, offers to the public the third series of Treasury

Notes, bearing seven and three tenths per cent interest per

annum, known as the

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These Notes are issued under date of July 15, 1865, and are

payable three years from that date in currency, or are pay-

able at the option of the holder into

U. S. 5-20 PER CENT GOLD-BEARING BONDS.

These Bonds are now worth a handsome premium, and are

excepted, as are all the Government Bonds, from State, County

and Municipal Taxation, which adds from one to three per

cent per annum to their value, according to the rate levied

upon other property. The interest is payable semiannually

by coupons attached to each note, which may be cut off and

sold to any bank or banker.

THE INTEREST AT 7.30 PER CENT AMOUNTS TO

ONE CENT PER DAY ON A \$100 NOTE.

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ONE DOLLAR PER DAY ON A \$5,000 NOTE.

Notes of all the denominations named will be promptly

furnished upon receipt of subscriptions.

The Notes of this Third Series are precisely similar in form

and privileges to the Seven-Thirties already sold, except that

the Government reserves to itself the option of paying interest

in gold coin at 6 per cent, instead of 7.30 in currency.

Subscribers will deduct the interest in currency up to July

15th, at the time when they subscribe.

The delivery of the notes of the third series of the Seven-

thirties will commence on the 1st of June, and will be made

promptly and continuously after that date.

The slight change made in the conditions of this THIRD

series affects only the matter of interest. The payment in

gold, if made, will be equivalent to the currency interest of

the higher rate.

The return to specie payments, in the event of which only

will the option to pay interest in gold be availed of, would so

reduce and equalize prices, that purchases made with six per

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In order that citizens of every town and section of the

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have confidence, and who only are to be responsible for the

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No. 114 South Third-st.,

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May 15, 1865.

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